

Spotlight: Northeast District Tupelo Area



*Beginning at the Northeast corner of the Northeast corner of Mississippi,
covering 1.35 million acres of forestland . . .*

No, this is not the beginning of a legal description but it does describe the seven county Tupelo Area. Headquartered in Tupelo, the Tupelo Area is one of thirteen MFC administrative areas within the state. This area is also one of the most diverse physiographic regions in Mississippi, starting at the Tennessee River in Tishomingo County in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains and continuing south into the Black Prairie Region in Monroe County.

Not only do you find great diversity between landforms and timber types but also in the people. Small farms and towns dot the landscape with a rural atmosphere. At the same time Tupelo, head-

quarters of the Northeast District of the MFC and one of the most progressive cities in Mississippi, is located in the area..

But we believe the greatest asset in the Tupelo Area is the dedicated, hardworking employees of the Mississippi Forestry Commission. Please allow us the privilege of introducing this group of men and women (employee profiles start on page 6), and sharing with you a little of what we've been doing lately.

Brendix Glasgow
District Forester
Northeast District

TUPELO AREA FAST FACTS

The
Tupelo Area
sold 2,548,000
MFC seedlings
in 2006.



Monroe County, with
764.2 square miles,
is among
the largest counties
in the state.

Safety First:

First Time, Every Time

by Jimmy Mordica, Conservation Education/Public Outreach

Winter is here, and cold feet can be a problem when working in the great outdoors. Cold feet can reduce productivity and make life just plain miserable. There are measures, though, that we can take to minimize this problem. First, we have to understand what the causes of cold feet are, then we can take preventative measures to correct the problem.

Warm feet are generally a sign that the circulation is good. Some people just have colder feet than others, not related to poor circulation. But there are a number of medical conditions such as multiple sclerosis, heart disease, peripheral neuropathy, and Raynauds disease can cause cold feet. To learn more about these and other conditions, visit <http://epodiatry.com>.

The best way to deal with cold feet is to prevent heat loss by keeping them warm and dry. Wearing natural fiber socks, especially wool, is advisable. Footwear made of leather, which has insulating properties, can help keep the feet warmer. There are also some old-time and some space-age products on the market that can help.

First is an old-time favorite, the 8 mm wool felt insole. These can be purchased at many sporting goods and shoe stores for around \$3 to \$5. Placing these insoles in your boots creates an insulating layer between your

insoles on the market developed by NASA for the space program. These space-age insoles are called "Aerogel" and are available at some shoe and sporting goods stores for about \$12. They are also available online at www.toastyfeet.com.

Even in cold weather, our feet sweat as we work. To keep feet dry, start with a pair of polypropylene socks to wick moisture away from the feet. Then top them with a natural fiber sock for insulating power. Wool works best because wool, unlike cotton, doesn't lose its insulating properties even when wet.

Let's face it: the majority of work done by MFC employees is accomplished out of doors. It just makes good sense to do what we can to protect our feet and make our day as comfortable as possible.

Felt wool insoles add insulation when worn with leather footwear and help keep feet warm.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

All submissions are welcome. Photographs are encouraged (although space constraints may curtail inclusion). Items must be received by the **15th of the month** to be included in the next month's issue.

e-mail submissions to
phenson@mfc.state.ms.us

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Safety on the ground: Truck and Tractor Operator Training

by Jeff Ware, Public Outreach/Urban Coordinator/Northeast District

You always hear that there is nothing like experience. Well, we've lost a lot of experience in our workforce lately. We realized we were asking our employees, many of them new to the agency, to do a job for which they had little training, a job that can be very dangerous. That job is firefighting. To do this job, they will have to use machinery that they may be unfamiliar with. For that reason, we decided to hold a truck and tractor operator training session.

In these sessions, we wanted to focus on basic maintenance, safety, and operation of every truck and tractor in our district. Each piece of equipment had an experienced operator as the instructor for that particular vehicle.

The tractor operator session was held at Trace State Park in Pontotoc. The day began at 8:00 in the morning with a safety briefing and ended with a wrap-up session. Inexperienced and experienced employees alike took turns operating the equipment. Every

employee rotated until each had the opportunity to operate every type of dozer; and every employee, from Area Foresters to Rangers, went through the exercise.

The truck operator training was held the following day at the Agri-Center in Tupelo. Like the previous day, the session began at 8:00 a. m. with a safety briefing (including a warning to watch out for the utility poles in the parking lot) before the training started, and again ended with a wrap-up session. Every employee operated each type of truck, from a 1990 Navistar automatic to a 2004 Sterling-10 speed. A few employees were heard grinding gears—but we won't name any names!

Northeast District Maintenance worker Doug Vandevander, a MFC employee of 18 years, stressed that maintenance plays a big part in keeping rolling stock moving. He stated, "Everyone needs to know the basics of how to maintain their equipment." And Columbus Area Forester Bruce Frazier, a 32-year veteran with the agency, reminded everyone of safety at each stop. "There are several employees who have never had this

(top photo) Marshall County Ranger Roosevelt Galloway tries his hand driving a truck loaded with a dozer under the tutelage of Duane Hodges of Pontotoc County. Ronnie Clayton, Itawamba County Ranger, instructs Union CF Justin Dewberry (below left).



"This was not only a good way to identify training needs, but also a great way to identify safety concerns with each employee. On behalf of the staff at the District Office, we want to thank each of our instructors for stepping up and taking a leading role, and each employee who participated."

- District Forester Brendix Glasgow



kind of training. Even experienced operators learned or were reminded of things during the sessions."

This was our first attempt at this type of cross-training, and at the end of the day nothing but positive comments were heard. No accidents were reported, but we did identify several safety issues to be addressed.

State Forester Speaker at MFA Meeting

There were several notable speakers during the Mississippi Forestry Association's annual meeting in October, one of which was our very own State Forester Charlie Morgan. SF Morgan discussed organizational changes in the MFC and the use of new technologies such as GIS.



Arson Investigators Class Held

An arson Investigators class was held recently at the Southern Regional Fire Training Center in Rankin County. Sanctioned by the Department of Homeland Security, the 22 participants took the class in order to meet the National Association of State Foresters certification. Three more classes, open to administrators and law enforcement personnel only, are slated.

A participant of the class sifts through the ashes of a fire looking for evidence of its origin.



**The DeSoto County
Master Urban Foresters**

DeSoto County Master Urban Foresters Group

The second class of Master Urban Foresters in DeSoto County participated in tree planting activities in November as part of their training. These volunteers will help Service Forester Drew Stafford during Tree Planting Week and Arbor Day events.

Other areas and counties interested in the Master Urban Forester training program should contact Urban Forestry Coordinator Rick Olson by calling (601) 359-1386 or by e-mailing rolson@mfc.state.ms.us.

Parker Retires

The Mississippi Forestry Commission bid a fond farewell to longtime employee M. T. Parker.

M. T. was Law Enforcement Chief at the time of his retirement, but held numerous positions over the period of his employment. Parker recently retired with 52 years of service, and served under more than a few State Foresters. He also saw many changes over the course of his career. His dedication and commitment will be sorely missed.

We all wish M. T. the best in this next phase of his life.



(top photo) A personalized cake features an edible photo of Parker early in his career with the MFC. (middle) A gift of a rocking chair inscribed with his name and years of service presented to Parker begs the question: will he actually use it? (above left) Newly appointed Law Enforcement Chief Everard Baker presents a framed collection of the tools of Parker's trade to M. T. at his retirement reception. (bottom left) M. T. gets a handshake from his old friend and



Other news from around the state . . .

The NWD reports that Jonathon Holifield, Attala County Forest Technician, is a proud new papa. Zackery Edward Holifield, 6 lb. 7 oz., was born Nov. 3, 2006.

Congratulations are also in order for Forest Ranger I Michael Story of Carroll County on his recent marriage to Angela Kathleen.

Smokey kept was busy in December. He participated in 18 parades in the district.

Two PLT workshops were held, one in Winterville Mounds and one in Grenada. There were a total of 27 participants.

Philip Wilson sent this picture of his adorable twin grandsons. Said Philip, "They were born right after Katrina last year; that storm was bad to most folks, but she brought me these two grandsons!"



Spotlight: Tupelo Area

Employee Profiles



**Wes
Baird**

*Service Forester
Monroe/Itawamba Counties*

Hometown: Starkville, MS
Currently residence: Aberdeen, MS

Family: Wife, Bridget;
Daughter, Ella Grace

Education/Professional Training:
MS State University (BS, Forest
Management); Employed by Georgia
Pacific

Service with MFC: 7 months

Hobbies: "I enjoy deer and turkey
hunting, bass fishing, and attending
baseball and football games at
MSU."

Favorite aspect of job: "I like that
a lot of the work is done outdoors
and in different areas almost every
day. Also, I really enjoy helping
landowners with problems or ques-
tions they may have with their tim-
berlands."



**Lee
Bell**

*Forest Ranger II
Monroe County*

Hometown: Aberdeen, MS
Currently residence: Aberdeen, MS

Family: Single;
Daughter, Kaylee

Education/Professional Training:
Hamilton High School; Employed by
the Hamilton Water Department

Service with MFC: 13 years

Hobbies: "I enjoy being outdoors,
and especially deer hunting. My
daughter has started to get interested
in hunting, which makes it even
more enjoyable for me."

Favorite aspect of job: "Working
outdoors and working in different
locations. I also like burning and
operating the bulldozer."



**Kenneth
Berryman**

*Forest Ranger I
Prentiss County*

Hometown: Booneville, MS
Currently residence: Booneville, MS

Family: Wife, Mary;
Children, Jennifer and Kevin

Education/Professional Training:
Thrasher High School; Farming

Service with MFC: 18 years

Hobbies: "I enjoy farm-related activi-
ties that result in products to share with
my family and friends. They enjoy such
things as fresh milk, homemade butter,
and the home-ground cornmeal that I
prepare. Gardening and livestock are
my main interests. I also enjoy hunting,
fishing, and helping my neighbors."

Favorite aspect of job: "I enjoy work-
ing outside. Helping bring unwanted
fire threats under control gives me a
sense of pride and leaves me with a
sense of accomplishment. It makes a
contribution to our community."

The employees profiled on this and the fol-
lowing pages all work in the Tupelo Area.
Some work more-or-less in one county;
some cover a couple of counties, and some
work area-wide.

They are introduced here alphabeti-
cally by their last names, and their position
and the county or counties where they spend
most of their work time are indicated.

Please let us introduce you to the folks
of the Tupelo Area . . .

**"Area personnel have been tremendous in
assuming new and different responsibilities.
Each and every one has stepped up to the plate.
Dedication to the job across the area is an
absolute trademark
for these ladies and gentlemen."**

- Alan Van Valkenburg

Spotlight: Tupelo Area

Employee Profiles



Ronnie
Clayton

*Forest Ranger II
Itawamba County*

Hometown: Fulton, MS
Currently residence: Fulton, MS

Family: Wife, Sheila;
Daughter, Cassandra

Education/Professional Training:
Itawamba High School

Service with MFC: 7 years

Hobbies: “Playing dulcimers (bluegrass music) first and foremost; going on trips; hunting.”

Favorite aspect of job: “Fire fighting and tree planting; getting to know people in the county where I live, and knowing you make a difference in protecting them from fire danger; and working with kids at school in the I&E programs.”



Danny
Cody

*Forest Ranger II
Itawamba County*

Hometown: Fulton, MS
Currently residence: Fulton, MS

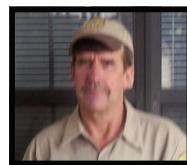
Family: Wife, Judy

Education/Professional Training:
Itawamba Community College
(field of Agriculture)

Service with MFC: 32 years

Hobbies: “Hunting deer and squirrel; small engine repair; the challenge of working on antiques, especially those that other people have given up on.”

Favorite aspect of job: “Working with some of the best people in the area; the challenge of working on fire control; planting trees that years down the road you can look at and say with pride, ‘I helped plant that plantation’.”



Herbert T.
Coker

*Forest Ranger I
Prentiss County*

Hometown: Booneville, MS
Currently residence: Booneville, MS

Family: Wife, Marcia;
Daughter, Dianna

Education/Professional Training:
New Site High School

Service with MFC: 32 years

Hobbies: “I enjoy hunting and fishing; also participating in the activities of Altitude and New Chandler Fire Departments, where I serve as Assistant Chief and Director of Maintenance, respectively. I also enjoy participating in a variety of activities at Smith’s Free Will Baptist Church, where I serve as Trustee.”

Favorite aspect of job: “Helping extinguish forest fires. I also get pleasure from helping landowners establish tree farms that are both economically profitable and environmentally friendly. I enjoy working with my coworkers.”

Birthplace of the King of Rock and Roll

Elvis Presley

Tupelo, Mississippi

Spotlight: Tupelo Area

Employee Profiles



**Thomas
Coker**

*Forest Ranger II
Prentiss County*

Hometown: Booneville, MS
Current residence: Booneville, MS

Family: Wife, Pamela;
Daughter, Tiffiny

Education/Professional Training:
New Site High School

Service with MFC: 33 years

Hobbies: “My favorite pastime is ebay. I enjoy going to trade days and flea markets. Hunting and fishing have been recreations I have shared with my family and friends for a lifetime.”

Favorite aspect of job: “Being part of a job that allows me to be outside and have different tasks is important to me. I appreciate the fellowship I have with my coworkers.”



**Dorthe
Compton**

*Office Support
Tishomingo County*

Hometown: Paden, MS
Currently residence: Iuka, MS

Family: Widowed;
Children, Eric and Valerie

Education/Professional Training:
High School (Davenport, Iowa)

Service with MFC: 25 years

Hobbies: “Spending time with my grandchildren (Brett, Riley, and Haylee). I also enjoy vegetable and flower gardening, reading, and sewing.”

Favorite aspect of job: “I enjoy all aspects of my job.”



**Bryan
Davis**

*Forestry Technician
Alcorn/Tippah Counties*

Hometown: Dumas, MS
Currently residence: Pine Grove Community in Tippah County, MS

Family: Wife, Connie;
Daughters, Candace and Bryanna

Education/Professional Training:
Northeast MS Community College
(Associate Degree in Forest Technology)

Service with MFC: 10 years

Hobbies: “During the winter I hunt whitetail deer, and in the spring I occasionally hunt turkey. I do a little catfishing in my dad’s pond but that’s all the fishing I do, due to the fact that I coach softball in the community’s little league during the summer. I also enjoy watching my girls play on their school’s basketball team.”

Favorite aspect of job: “I enjoy the camaraderie between myself and my coworkers as we work together to complete our assignments. I also enjoy meeting and working with new people, and gaining new friendships.”



First city to get
TVA
power:
Tupelo, Mississippi

Spotlight: Tupelo Area

Employee Profiles



**Jimmy R.
Fulton**

*Forest Ranger II
Monroe County*

Hometown: Birmingham, AL
Current residence: Aberdeen, MS

Family: Wife, Carol;
Son, Danny; 2 Grandchildren

Education/Professional Training:
Retired with 30 years service from Babcock & Wilcox (West Point, MS); Member of the Darracott Volunteer Fire Department; Licensed Emergency Medical Responder

Service with MFC: 8 years

Hobbies: "I run trot lines at night while camping on weekends. I enjoy blacksmith work such as repairing plows, bushhogs, and discs. I also build trailers, grills, and smokers."

Favorite aspect of job: "I enjoy working outdoors and operating dozers."

**Home of
Northeast
Mississippi
Community
College**

**Booneville
Mississippi**



**Greg
Hall**

*Forestry Technician
Lee County*

Hometown: Pontotoc, MS
Current residence:
Pontotoc County, MS

Family: Wife, Beverly;
Children, daughter Jesse and 2 stepsons; Grandchildren, 2

Education/Professional Training:
Itawamba Community College (Associate degree in Forestry); Worked 12 years for PCA Woodlands of Iuka, MS, and Savannah, TN; Owner, in partnership with brother, of seed and feed store in Pontotoc until employment with MFC

Service with MFC: 11 years

Hobbies: "I enjoy hunting deer and squirrel, family activities, fishing for bass and bream, growing a garden, and working on my farm."

Favorite aspect of job: "Being able to work outside; helping landowners grow timber and become good stewards of the land and environment."



**Joshua
Hatcher**

*Forest Ranger I
Monroe County*

Hometown: Amory, MS
Current residence: Amory, MS

Family: Single

Education/Professional Training:
Amory High School; Cason Volunteer Fire Department

Service with MFC: 4 months

Hobbies: "I enjoy catfishing on the Tombigbee River, working on cars, and trail riding 4-wheelers on the weekend."

Favorite aspect of job: "I enjoy it all, especially working with all the different types of equipment, and not being confined to the indoors."

**Monroe
County**
is among the largest
counties
in
Mississippi
with
764.2
square miles

Spotlight: Tupelo Area

Employee Profiles



**Jim
Lacy**

*Area Forester
Tupelo Area*

Hometown: Ackerman, MS
Current residence: Tupelo, MS

Family: Parents, Ed and Mabel;
Brother Tim and family

Education/Professional Training:
MS State University (BS in Forest
Resources)

Service with MFC: 16 years

Hobbies: “Bass fishing and deer
hunting; woodworking, as well as
running and cycling for exercise.”

Favorite aspect of job: “I enjoy
the camaraderie and friendship
shared by the employees. The finest
and most dedicated individuals I
have known work for this agency,
and it is a pleasure to be associated
with them. If I had to choose just
one job in particular that I enjoy, it
would be prescribe burning.”



**Michael
Lipford**

*Forest Ranger I
Tippah County*

Hometown: San Diego, CA
Current residence: Ripley, MS

Family: Wife, Melissa;
Daughter, Alexis

Education/Professional Training:
Walnut High School

Service with MFC: 2 years

Hobbies: “I’m a member of a local
softball team that participates in the
summer league at the City Park in
Ripley. We also participate in vari-
ous tournaments at the local and
state level. When I’m not playing
softball in the summer, I like to do
a little fishing at some of the local
lakes and ponds.”

Favorite aspect of job: “First of
all, I enjoy being of service to the
landowners. However, any aspect
of the job that allows me to work
outside is probably my favorite
part.”



**John
Martin**

*Forestry Technician
Monroe/Itawamba Counties*

Hometown: Fulton, MS
Current residence: Fulton, MS

Family: Single

Education/Professional Training:
Itawamba Community College
(Associate Degree in Forestry)

Service with MFC: 8 years

Hobbies: “Running, weight train-
ing, and the computer.”

Favorite aspect of job: “I like be-
ing outdoors and not tied down to
one place; meeting with landown-
ers; doing different jobs depending
on the season; and working with
MFC employees across the state.”

At 806 feet above
sea level,
Woodall Mountain
is the highest point
in Mississippi.

Spotlight: Tupelo Area

Employee Profiles



**Troy
McCluskey, Jr.**

*Forest Ranger II
Tippah County*

Hometown: Ripley, MS
Current residence: Mitchell Community in Tippah County, MS

Family: Wife, Cindy;
Stepchildren (3); Grandchildren (3)

Education/Professional Training:
Pine Grove School (Tippah Co.)

Service with MFC: 17 years

Hobbies: “During the spring and summer, my wife and I enjoy fishing for catfish on the Tennessee River around Pickwick Lake and at Muscle Shoals, AL. Occasionally we do a little crappie fishing on Sardis. During the winter, I enjoy hunting deer.”

Favorite aspect of job: “I’ve always enjoyed working outdoors, so I enjoy most all aspects of my job. However, I really enjoy meeting new people and the friendships that I gain.”



**Brandon
McDaniel**

*Forest Ranger I
Lee County*

Hometown: Nettleton, MS
Current residence: Nettleton, MS

Family: Wife, Faith;
Son, Micah Landin

Education/Professional Training:
Nettleton High School

Service with MFC: 3+ months

Hobbies: “Hunting deer, squirrel, turkey, and rabbit; fishing for bream, crappie, and catfish; trapping; riding ATVs; going to football games; go-cart racing; and spending time with my wife and son.”

Favorite aspect of job: “The ability to work outdoors, and in different parts of the county.”



**Kenneth
Mobley**

*Forest Ranger II
Tishomingo County*

Hometown: Cherokee, AL
Current residence: Iuka, MS

Family: Wife, Paulette

Education/Professional Training:
Cherokee High School

Service with MFC: 20 years

Hobbies: “I own and operate Mobley’s Garage in Iuka. I also enjoy building bird houses.”

Favorite aspect of job: “I love to do workshops with kids, and keeping the forestry fleet going with my mechanical skills.”

**388 wildfires were suppressed
in the Tupelo Area in 2006.**

7,194 acres were involved.



Spotlight: Tupelo Area

Employee Profiles



**Glen
Mynatt**

*Service Forester
Alcorn/Tippah Counties*

Hometown: Potts Camp, MS
Current residence: Corinth, MS

Family: Wife, Pherbia;
Children, Kaitynn, Anna Kolby,
Weston, Mattie Gracynn

Education/Professional Training:
MS State University (BS, Forest
Resources)

Service with MFC: 17 years

Hobbies: "I enjoy deer and squirrel hunting. I also enjoy fishing for bass and white perch in watershed lakes and Pickwick Lake. My wife and I enjoy attending softball and basketball games and other activities that our children are involved in. My family and I are members of Farmington Baptist Church in Corinth and enjoy taking part in all church activities."

Favorite aspect of job: "I like being able to work with different landowners, and help them keep their land in its most productive use."



**Lane
Nunley**

*Forest Ranger II
Tishomingo County*

Hometown: Iuka, MS
Current residence: Iuka, MS

Family: Parents

Education/Professional Training:
Tishomingo High School

Service with MFC: 20 years

Hobbies: "I love farming, including cross-bred cattle and row cropping, and spending time with my father while doing this."

Favorite aspect of job: "I love fire fighting, the hotter the better!"



**Billy
Powers**

*Forest Ranger II
Alcorn County*

Hometown: Burnsville, MS
Current residence: Corinth, MS

Family: Wife, Mary Faye;
Children, 2 sons, 4 daughters

Education/Professional Training:
Attended school in Burnsville, MS

Service with MFC: 6 years

Hobbies: "I enjoy sitting on my porch watching and feeding wild birds. I also enjoy playing several different musical instruments, and performing with family and friends."

Favorite aspect of job: "I enjoy being able to work outdoors and help landowners with a variety of different forestry-related services."

The record low
temperature
in Mississippi
was
recorded
in Corinth.

It dropped to
-19 degrees.

Spotlight: Tupelo Area

Employee Profiles



**Joey
Price**

Service Forester
Tishomingo/Prentiss Counties

Hometown: Iuka, MS
Current residence: Iuka, MS

Family: Wife, Angie;
Children, Haley and Jonathan

Education/Professional Training:
MS State University, (BS in Forest
Resources)

Service with MFC: 8 years

Hobbies: "I love raising registered Angus cattle and registered quarter horses - a job, but also a joy. I also enjoy deer and turkey hunting."

Favorite aspect of job: "Working with elderly landowners. They always have questions about trees and how to be better stewards of the land. They also have lots of wisdom to share."



**Barbara
Riddle**

Office Support
Prentiss County

Hometown: Booneville, MS
Current residence: Booneville, MS

Family: Husband, Jerry;
Children, 3 daughters, 1 stepdaughter,
1 son; and 6 grandchildren

Education/Professional Training:
Booneville High School

Service with MFC: 19 years

Hobbies: "I enjoy reading, as well as visiting with friends and cooking. I am learning to sew so I can sew for the grandchildren."

Favorite aspect of job: "I did not know just how much I enjoy working with the MFC until the reduction in the work force got me in October of 2005. Now that I am back, I can say without a doubt that working here is the best job ever! The guys I work with are super good and ready to help without any complaints. I also enjoy communicating with landowners. I guess I just love every aspect of my job!"



**Phillip
South**

Ranger I
Tishomingo County

Hometown: Iuka, MS
Current residence: Iuka, MS

Family: Wife, Mary;
Children, daughter Audrey, and son
Ethan

Education/Professional Training:
Northeast MS Community College
(Electrical Technology)

Service with MFC: 8 years

Hobbies: "I love to ride my American quarter horse (Whiskey), and I enjoy hunting with my son."

Favorite aspect of job: "Talking with and helping landowners that really appreciate what we do for them."

Fulton is the home of Itawamba Community College.

Spotlight: Tupelo Area

Employee Profiles



**Mike
Stephens**

*Forest Ranger II
Prentiss County*

Hometown: Marietta, MS
Current residence: Marietta, MS

Family: Wife, Sarah

Education/Professional Training:
New Site High School

Service with MFC: 12 years

Hobbies: "I enjoy raising a variety of fruits and vegetables, as well as gourds that provide approximately 250 Martin houses. I enjoy spending time with family and friends, especially my granddaughter, Aden. I also enjoy NASCAR races."

Favorite aspect of job: "I enjoy being able to work outside the majority of the time, along with the relationships I establish with landowners in our area and my coworkers. I get a sense of accomplishment in knowing that I am able to provide useful information regarding forest management to the citizens of my community."



**Bobby
Stevens**

*Forest Ranger II
Alcorn County*

Hometown: Corinth, MS
Current residence: Corinth, MS

Family: Wife, Marie;
Daughter, Carrie (" . . . and hoping for some grandchildren in the near future!")

Education/Professional Training:
Northeast Mississippi Community College

Service with MFC: 15 years

Hobbies: "I enjoy going to stock car races anywhere they're having one. I also like to watch stock car racing on television."

Favorite aspect of job: "I enjoy everything about my job, especially being able to work outdoors and do different jobs, rather than having to do the same thing every day."



**Tyler
Tatum**

*Forest Ranger I
Lee County*

Hometown: Nettleton, MS
Currently residence: Nettleton, MS

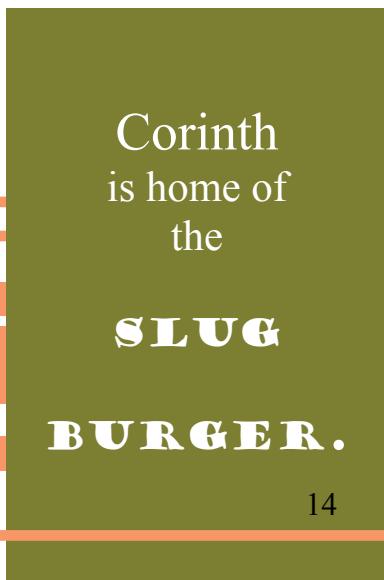
Family: Wife, Bethany;
Son, Silas

Education/Professional Training:
Nettleton High School

Service with MFC: 1 year

Hobbies: "I enjoy hunting deer, squirrel, and rabbit; fishing for catfish, bass, and crappie, as well as family gatherings."

Favorite aspect of job: "Being able to work outside in all weather conditions, and operating heavy machinery."



Spotlight: Tupelo Area

Employee Profiles



Andrew Tigner

*Forestry Technician
Prentiss/Tishomingo Counties*

Hometown: Mantachie, MS
Current residence: Mantachie, MS

Family: Wife, Michelle;
Son, Luke

Education/Professional Training:
Itawamba Community College

Service with MFC: 5 years

Hobbies: “I am an avid outdoorsman. I enjoy hunting, fishing, boating, and raising registered Angus cattle. Raising cattle is a full-time hobby that I have enjoyed since the seventh grade. Hunting and fishing is almost a way of life for me and my family. It is a family activity that we all enjoy and that has been passed on from generation to generation.”

Favorite aspect of job: “Being part of Mississippi’s greatest agricultural products preservation and production is a unique aspect of my job. My favorite aspect of my job is the quality of people I interact with on a routine basis. Seeing the sense of pride taken by my fellow employees helps make it that much better.”



Robert Thornton

*Service Forester
Lee County*

Hometown: Ripley, MS
Current residence: Lake Mohawk, MS

Family: Wife, Kathy;
Daughter Kayla and her older sister;
Grandchild, 1

Education/Professional Training: MS State University (BS in Forestry); Worked for various timber companies in the South; Registered Forester for 25 years

Service with MFC: 24+ years

Hobbies: “I like to hunt, fish, and target shoot when I get the opportunity. But I guess my biggest hobby has been remodeling the cabin we bought on Lake Mohawk. My wife and I also built a 40’ by 14’ addition to our cabin to enlarge the living room and add a down-stairs bedroom.”

Favorite aspect of job: “Since the MFC reorganization, I have been doing Public Outreach in the Tupelo area. I also work with urban forestry, safety, training, PLT, and Firewise. I have always liked dealing with the public, either through educational programs or presentations.”



Marsha Whitehead

*Clerical Office Support
Alcorn/Tippah Counties*

Hometown: Corinth, MS
Current residence: Corinth, MS

Family: Husband, D. J.;
Son, Cody; Grandchild, 1

Education/Professional Training:
Northeast MS Community College (Associate Degree in Applied Science, Business Administration)

Service with MFC: 23 +

Hobbies: “I enjoy traveling to anywhere; attending concerts (especially Ronnie McDowell concerts); collecting miniature dollhouses and furniture; vacationing with my family in Florida; spending time with and talking to my family and friends; seeing my son play drums; and most of all, playing with my precious little grandson. I am also a huge Elvis Presley fan!”

Favorite aspect of job: “I enjoy all aspects of my job. I especially enjoy meeting the landowners and being able to help with their needs.”

Spotlight: Tupelo Area

Employee Profiles



**Myra
Dianne
Williams**

*Clerical Support
Monroe County*

Hometown: Russellville, AL
Current residence: Aberdeen, MS

Family: Husband, Don;
Children, daughter Jill and son
Jody; Grandchildren, Savannah,
Keeton, and Chelsea

Education/Professional Training:
Employed as Accounting Clerk
with Vocational Rehabilitation in
Amory for 13 years; Employed as
Secretary/Bookkeeper for
Greenline Equipment for 7 years

Service with MFC: 9 years

Hobbies: “I enjoy reading, painting (mostly for the grandchildren), and outdoor and service activities.”

Favorite aspect of job: “I like being able to be part of the team that assists landowners in achieving their goals for the future, and improving the forestland of Mississippi.”



**Mike
Wilson**

*Forest Ranger I
Prentiss County*

Hometown: Booneville, MS
Current residence: Booneville, MS

Family: Daughter, Michelle Shaw
and her husband Denny

Education/Professional Training:
Thrasher High School

Service with MFC: 20 years

Hobbies: “I have a hobby some consider unique. I raise and sell exotic birds. I also market bird supplies, such as cages that I make myself. My hobby includes regular visits to flea markets, and participating in the fellowship that surrounds them.”

Favorite aspect of job: “My favorite part of the job is the people I interact with. Being outside in a natural environment and working with and for people with similar interests is the greatest aspect.”



**Keith
Wooten**

*Forest Ranger II
Alcorn County*

Hometown: Corinth, MS
Current residence: Corinth, MS

Family: Wife, Stacy;
Children, Kristy, Lisa, and Brian;
Grandsons, Jacob and Weston

Education/Professional Training:
Kossuth High School

Service with MFC: 15 years

Hobbies: “I enjoy deer hunting, camping, and spending time with my family.”

Favorite aspect of job: “I enjoy being able to work outdoors, operating dozers, and doing burning for landowners.”

Tupelo is home of the
Mississippi Forestry Commission’s
Northeast District Office.

